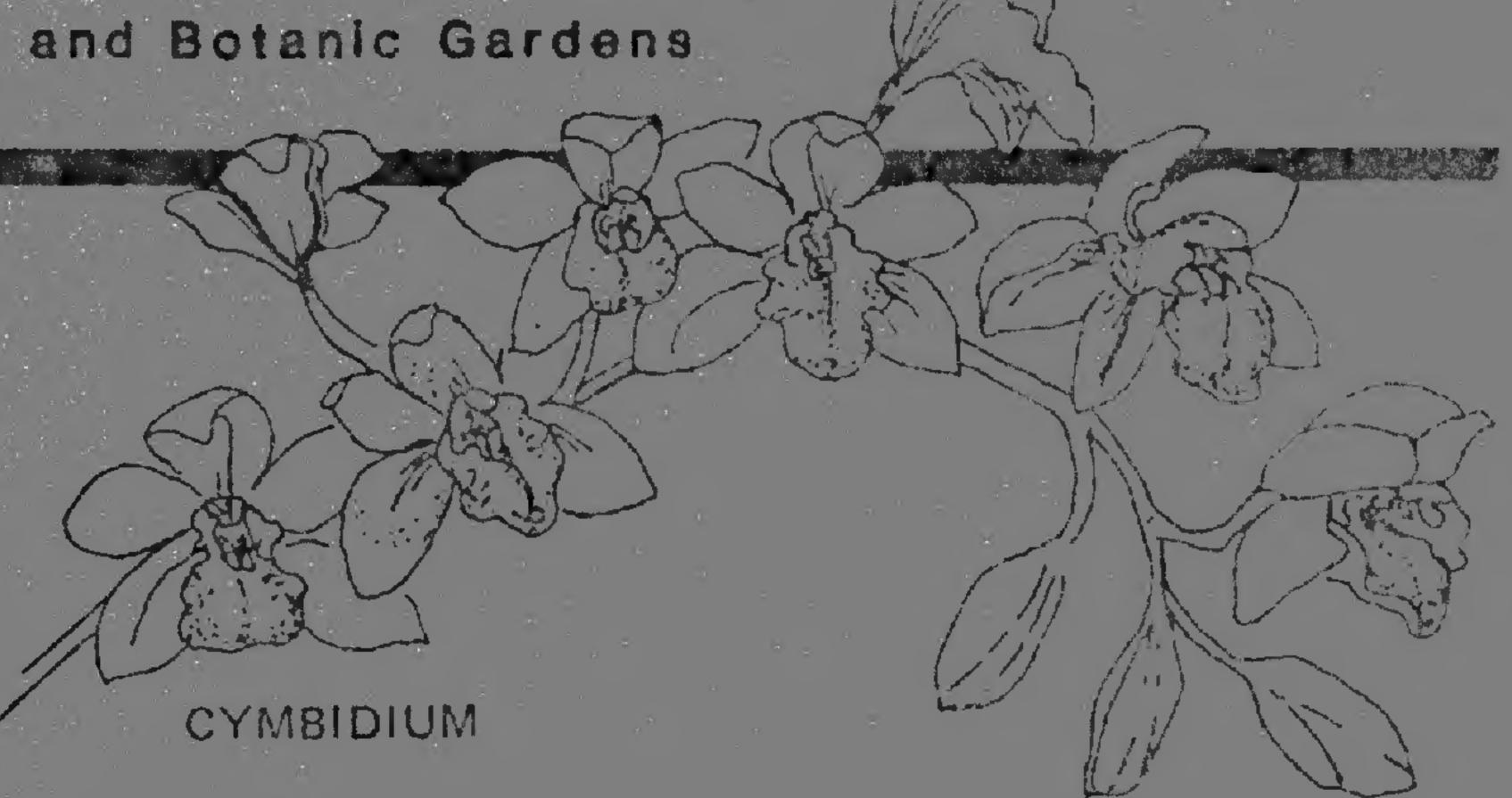
HORTICULTURE

for the home gardener

County of Los Angeles Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

CYMBIDIUMS AND PAPHIOPEDILUM ORCHIDS



Cymbidium and paphiopedilum orchids are relatively easy to grow in your home or in most outdoor areas where freezing temperatures are not encountered. These orchids are native to tropical mountainous southeast Asia, at elevations up to 8,000 feet, where nights are cool and rainfall is from 50 to 100 inches per year. They grow as terrestrials in an accumulation of loose, decaying vegetation on ledges partially shaded by overhanging cliffs or trees.

LIGHT AND TEMPERATURE

Paphios and cymbidiums do best in daytime temperatures of between 70° - 60°F, and in nighttime temperatures of 50° - 60°F. If plants are to be situated in outside areas, where the temperature drops below 32°F, with moderate frost, plants can be protected with a cover of polyethylene film in the winter. In colder areas orchids should be kept in a glassed-in porch or greenhouse during the winter months. Both orchids do well outdoors in summer if they are in the cool, strong, filtered light of a shade tree or planted beside companion plants like begonias, aralias, ferns, and azaleas. Cymbidiums thrive best under 55% saran cloth and paphios under 70% saran cloth. During the summer, a light syringing of water will keep the plants cooler and retard evaporation of moisture from the leaves.

FLOWERS

Cymbidiums - Cymbidium flowers range in color of white, cream, buff, yellow, chartreuse, green and rose. The flowers grow on erect or arching spikes from December to June, depending on the varieties and produce a dozen or more 4½" - 5" flowers per stem. Most flowers last about one month and make excellent cut flowers. The major cause of cymbidiums not blooming is the lack of light. Let leaf color be your guide. The ideal leaf color is greenish-yellow. A dark green leaf color usually denotes too much shade. When the plants are in bud or flowers, additional shade will cut down on bud drop, improve flower color and to help the flowers last longer. Toward the end of May after the flowering season be sure and remove the shade so that your plants will start to get their summer's growth.

Paphios - Paphio flowers are usually one or two to a tall, erect stem. Many of them shine as if they had been lacquered. They may be yellow, white, green, green with white stripes, or a combination of background colors and markings in tan, maroon, green, white and mahogany brown. About 5" wide, the flowers last about three to six weeks indoors and make excellent cut flowers. Paphios can be forced as early Christmas brooms by exposing the plants to night temperatures in the low 50°L in March and April

WATERING

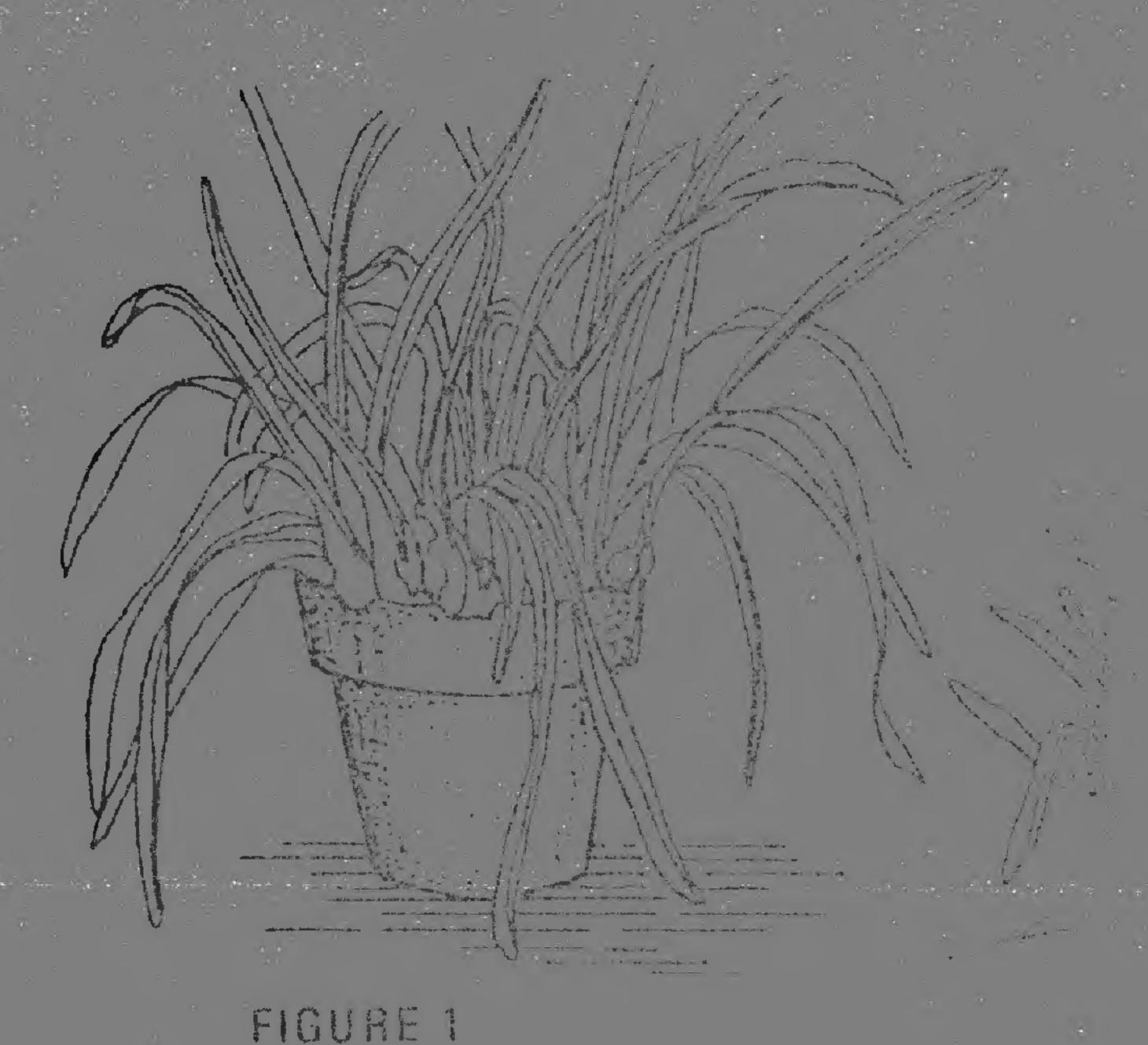
Both cymbidiums and paphios should never be allowed to dry out as this will stunt the new growth that would later produce flower spikes. Keep the soil moist but not soggy or the roots, and subsequently the plant will die. Having a humidity tray beneath the orchids benefits them as well as a daily misting in the mornings excessive moisture on the leaves late in the day encourages disease. They should have good drainage so that the water can leach out the toxic elements left from a previous feeding. In the summer, water 2-3 times per week. Two of the main causes of leaf-tip die-back are insufficient water during the growing season and the build up of sodium salts in the potting mix. In the winter, water as necessary. Growth is at a minimum then so plants may be kept drier but never bone-dry.

POTTING

Cymbidiums and parimos can be grown. redwood bark or shavings. 2 parts permality of bone meal or fertilizer. Ready-blended and the second in the medium, it should drain fast and be high in organic material. When selecting the selection is the space for two new growths. Plastic pots are best because they hold in more mounts. the top of the compost. If the plant is so we in the second the se

DIVIDING

How and when do you divide your or indi-Figure 1. The plant at the far len has post in second more new growth. This is a good time to the Figure 2. This shows how the division will be a second remove them from the pot and wash all the older healthy bulbs, as larger plants flower bouter in the second secon If the plants are not blooming, the heat in the inflowers are cut. Do not divide aite; luiy to a de la Figure 3. In planting, make a mound or make in the spread the roots over the mound. Politically the new divisions into a por large eno. They thrive best when crowded. With shaded, moist location brequently in the second cuts or fractures to heal over With. normal care.



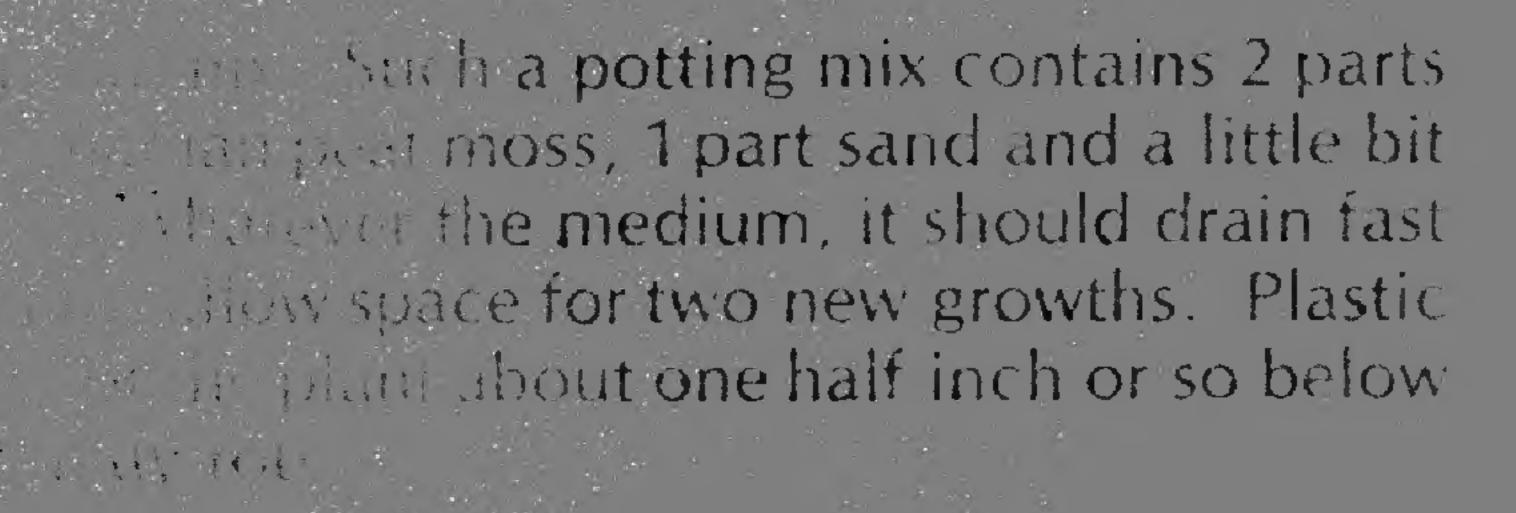
FEEDING

To promote growth and flowers, a well fertilizer that can be dissolved or diluter or the water may be substituted with the watering As with all chumin als halice

PESTS

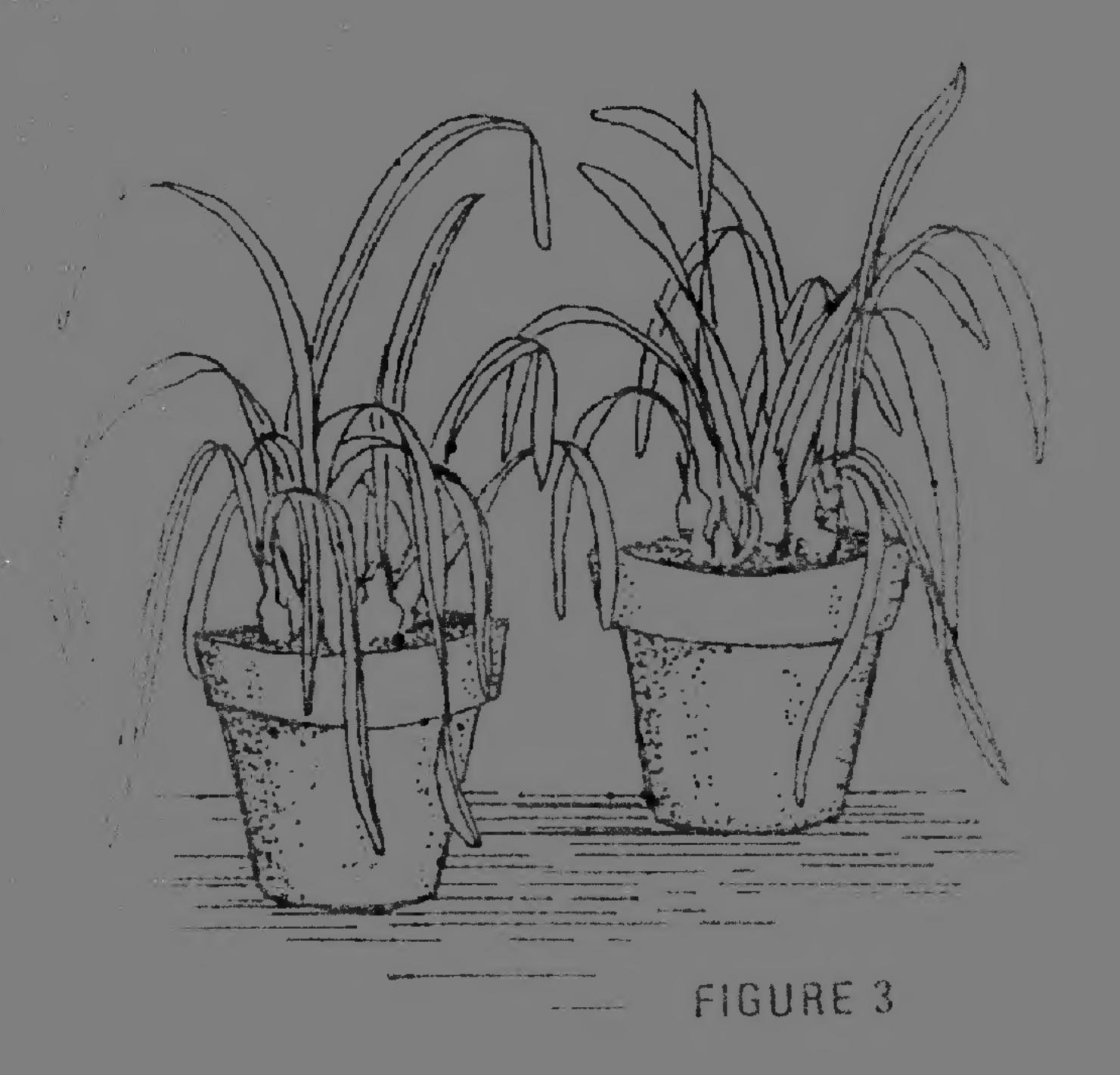
Cymbidiums and paphios are induly pests and can be controlled with main metaldehyde bait.

PAPHIOPEDILUM



put is filled with bulbs and there is no and to a larger pot.

at the grown to a good specimen size Divide them in divisions of 4-5 ir or pruning paint to discourage rot. If It bleaming, May is best as soon as the blooming the following year. the newly divided bulbs in and de with the potting mixture. Place and the plant temporarily in a well Lor wo weeks. This dry period allows e plant immediately and resume



assaw. Any powdered or liquid form of de leadh time you water your orchids. that all the soil is saturated as in

and scale are the most common an be controlled with granular

